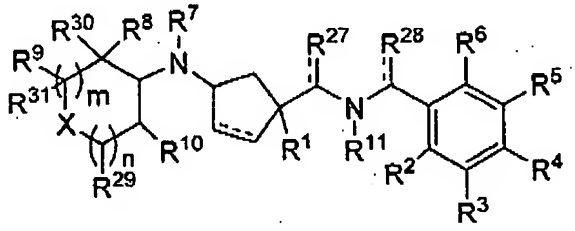
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of the formula I:



I

wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of:

-O-, -NR^{20}-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, and -$CR^{21}R^{22}$-, -NSO_2R^{20}-,

-$NCOR^{20}$-, -NCO_2R^{20}-, -$CR^{21}CO_2R^{20}$-, -$CR^{21}OCOR^{20}$-, -CO-, -O-$C(CH_3)_2$-O-,

where R^{20} is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, benzyl, phenyl,

C_{3-6} cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, -CO_2H, -CO_2-C_{1-6} alkyl, and trifluoromethyl,

where R^{21} and R^{22} are independently selected from: hydrogen, hydroxy,

C_{1-6} alkyl, -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, -CO_2H, -CO_2-C_{1-6} alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;

R^1 is selected from:

$-C_{1-6}$alkyl, $-C_{0-6}$alkyl-O-C_{1-6}alkyl, $-C_{0-6}$alkyl-S-C_{1-6}alkyl, $-C_{0-6}$alkyl-SO_{1-2}-C_{1-6}alkyl, $-C_{0-6}$alkyl-SO_2-NR^{26}-C_{1-6}alkyl, -(C_{0-6}alkyl)-(C_{3-7}cycloalkyl)-(C_{0-6}alkyl), hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, heterocycle, -CN, $-NR^{20}R^{26}$, $-NR^{26}SO_2R^{20}$, $-NR^{26}COR^{21}$, $-OCOR^{20}$, and phenyl,

where R^{26} is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl where the alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, and cycloalkyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2$-C_{1-6} alkyl, and ~~trifluoromethyl~~ trifluoromethyl,

where the alkyl and the cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, $-CO_2R^{20}$, $-SO_2R^{20}$, $-NHCOCH_3$, $-NHSO_2CH_3$, -heterocycle, =O, and -CN,

and where the phenyl and heterocycle are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy and trifluoromethyl;

R^2 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, chloro, bromo, and phenyl;

R^3 is selected from: hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NR^{20}R^{21}$, $-NR^{20}CO_2R^{21}$, $-NR^{20}CONR^{20}R^{21}$, $-NR^{20}$-SO_2-$NR^{20}R^{21}$, $-NR^{20}$-SO_2-R^{21}, heterocycle, -CN, $-CONR^{20}R^{21}$, $-CO_2R^{20}$, $-NO_2$, -S-R^{20}, -SO-R^{20}, $-SO_2$-R^{20}, and $-SO_2$-$NR^{20}R^{21}$;

R^4 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, chloro, bromo, and phenyl;

R^5 is selected from: C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1-6 fluoro and optionally substituted with hydroxyl, -O-C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1-6 fluoro, -CO-C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with 1-6 fluoro, -S-C_{1-6}alkyl, -pyridyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, and phenyl;

R^6 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, chloro, bromo, and phenyl;

R^7 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;

R^8 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are chosen from the group: fluoro, C_{1-3}alkoxy, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, fluoro, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 fluoro, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, -O-C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, $-OCOR^{20}$, and phenyl,

or R^7 and R^8 may be joined together via a C_{2-4}alkyl or a C_{0-2}alkyl-O-C_{1-3}alkyl chain to form a 5-7 membered ring;

R^9 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are chosen from the group: fluoro, C_{1-3}alkoxy, hydroxy, $-CO_2R^{20}$, CO_2R^{20}, hydroxy, and -O-C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are chosen from the group: fluoro, C_{1-3}alkoxy, hydroxy, and $-CO_2R^{20}$,

or R^8 and R^9 may be joined together by a C_{1-4}alkyl chain or a C_{0-3}alkyl-O-C_{0-3}alkyl chain to form a 3-6 membered ring;

R^{10} is selected from: hydrogen, and C_{1-6}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro, fluoro, -O-C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, where alkyl may be unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro,

or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together by a C_{1-3}alkyl chain or a single bond to form a 3-6 membered ring; where the alkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substiuents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, -CO_2R^{20}, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy,

or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together by a C_{1-2}alkyl-O-C_{1-2}alkyl chain to form a 6-8 membered ring, where the alkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substiuents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, -CO_2R^{20}, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy,

or R^8 and R^{10} may be joined together by a –O-C_{1-2}alkyl-O- chain to form a 6-7 membered ring, where the alkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 substituents where the substiuents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, -CO_2R^{20}, C_{1-3}alkyl, and C_{1-3}alkoxy;

R^{11} is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, and trifluoromethyl;

R^{27} and R^{28} are independently selected from: =O, where R^{27}, R^{28}, or both, is oxygen and is connected via a double bond, hydrogen, phenyl, and C_{1-6}alkyl which may be substituted or unsubstituted with 1-6 of the following substituents:
-COR^{11}, hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, and -O-C_{1-3}alkyl;

R^{29}, R^{30}, and R^{31} are independently selected from: hydrogen, methyl, hydroxyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, and trifluoromethoxy;

or R^{29} and R^9 are connected by a C_{1-3}alkyl bridge;

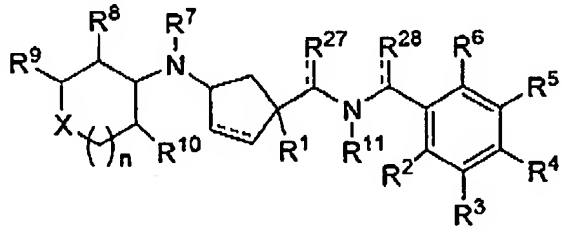
m is selected from 0, 1, and 2;

n is selected from 0, 1 and 2; and

the dashed line represents a single or a double bond;

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~ salt thereof. ~~and individual diastereomers thereof.~~

2. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 of the formula Ia:



Ia

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~salts and individual diastereomers~~ thereof.

3. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of: -O-, and $-CH_2-$.

4. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein X is -O-.

5. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 is selected from:

(1) $-C_{1-6}$alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, $-O-C_{1-3}$alkyl, and trifluoromethyl,

(2) -C_{0-6}alkyl-O-C_{1-6}alkyl-, which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, and trifluoromethyl,

(3) -C_{0-6}alkyl-S-C_{1-6}alkyl-, which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, and trifluoromethyl, and

(4) -(C_{3-5}cycloalkyl)-(C_{0-6}alkyl), which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-7 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: halo, hydroxy, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, and trifluoromethyl.

6. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 is C_{1-6}alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-5 substituents where the substituents are independently selected from: hydroxy, and fluoro.

7. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is selected from: isopropyl, -$CH(OH)CH_3$, and -CH_2CF_3.

8. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^2 is selected from: hydrogen, hydroxy, and trifluoromethyl.

9. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^2 is selected from: hydrogen, and hydroxy.

10. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^3 is selected from: C_{1-6}alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from fluoro, ~~fluoro,~~ chloro, and bromo.

11. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

~~In the present invention it is more preferred that~~ R^3 is selected from: ~~trifluromethyl,~~ trifluoromethyl, cyclopropyl, and fluoro.

12. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^5 is selected from: C_{1-6}alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 substituents independently selected from ~~fluoro~~, fluoro, chloro, and bromo.

13. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^5 is selected from: ~~trifluromethyl,~~ trifluoromethyl, cyclopropyl, and fluoro.

14. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^5 is trifluoromethyl.

15. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^6 is hydrogen.

16. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^7 is hydrogen.

17. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^8 is selected from: hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-6 fluoro, -O-C_{1-3}alkyl, fluoro, and hydroxy.

18. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^8 is selected from: hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoro, and -O-CH_3.

19. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^9 is hydrogen and R^{10} is hydrogen.

20. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^8 and R^{10} are joined together by a -CH_2CH_2- chain or a -$CH_2CH_2CH_2$- chain to form a cyclopentyl ring or a cyclohexyl ring.

21. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^{27} is =O, where R^{27} is oxygen and is connected via a double bond.

22. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^9 and R^{29} are joined together by a C_{1-3}alkyl chain to form a ring.

23. (currently amended) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^{29} is hydrogen, R^{30} is hydrogen, and R^{31} is hydrogen.

24. Canceled

25. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an inert carrier and a the compound of Claim ~~1~~ 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

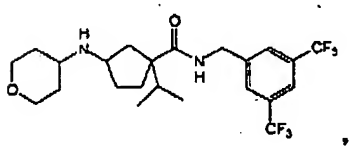
26. Canceled

27. (currently amended) A method for treating, ameliorating or controlling an inflammatory or immunoregulatory disorder or disease which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the compound of Claim ~~1~~ 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (currently amended) A method for reducing the risk of an inflammatory or immunoregulatory disorder or disease which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the compound of Claim ~~1~~ 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (currently amended) A method for treating, ameliorating or controlling rheumatoid arthritis which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the compound of Claim ~~1~~ 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (previously presented)A compound which is selected from the group consisting of: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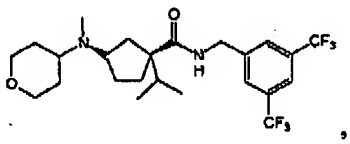
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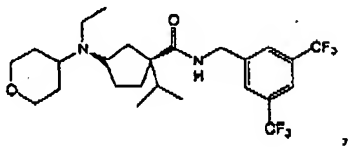
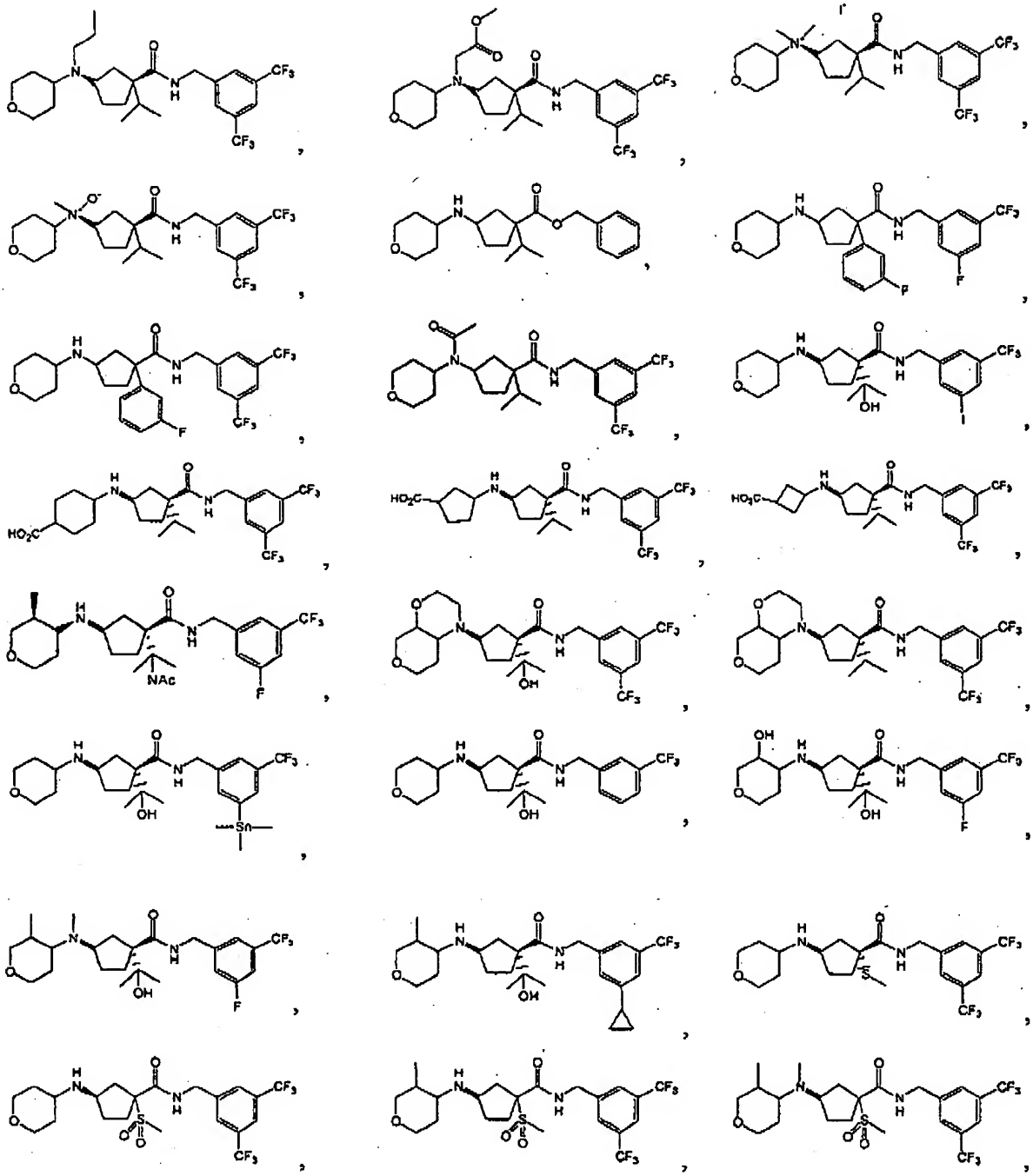
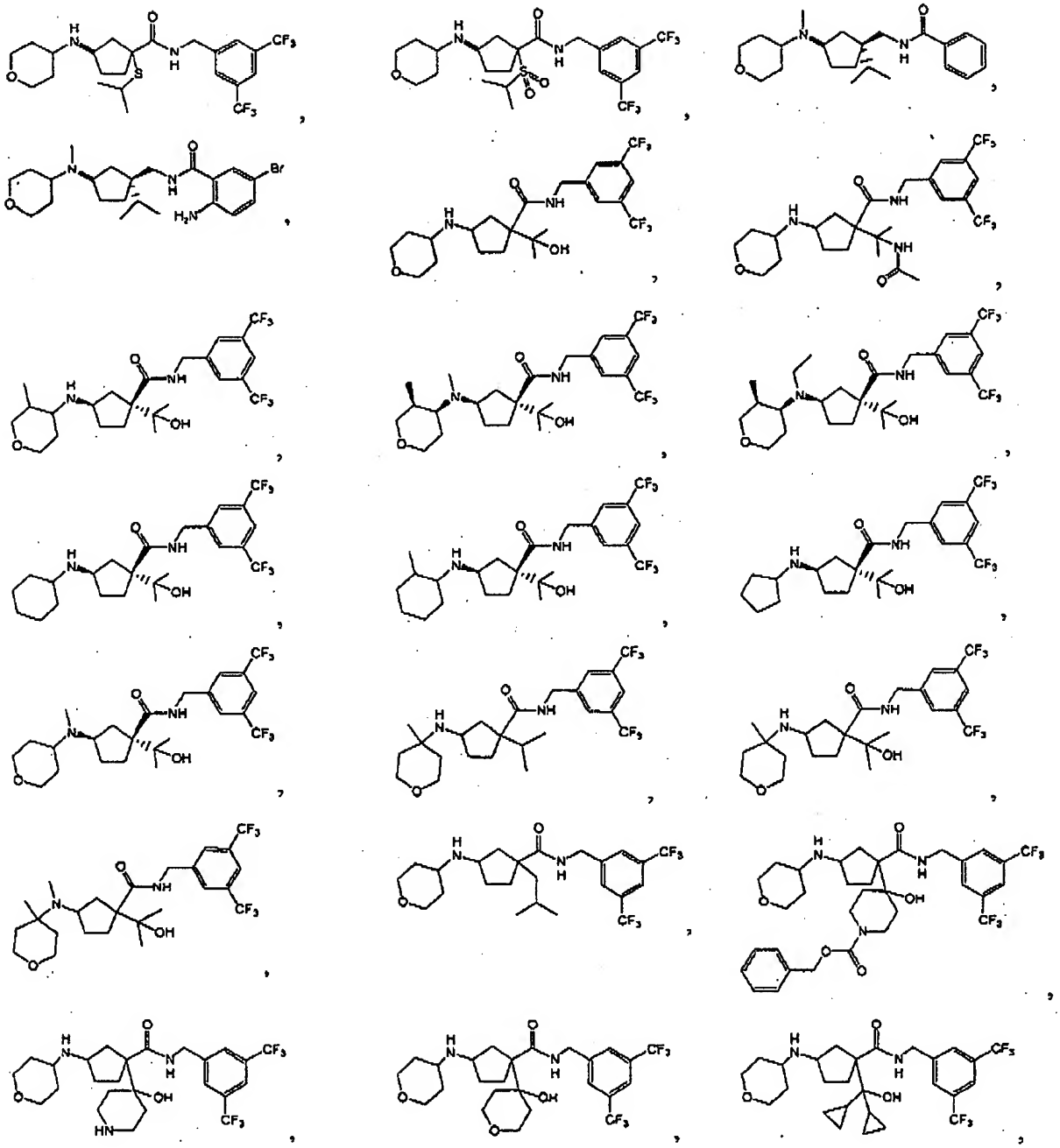
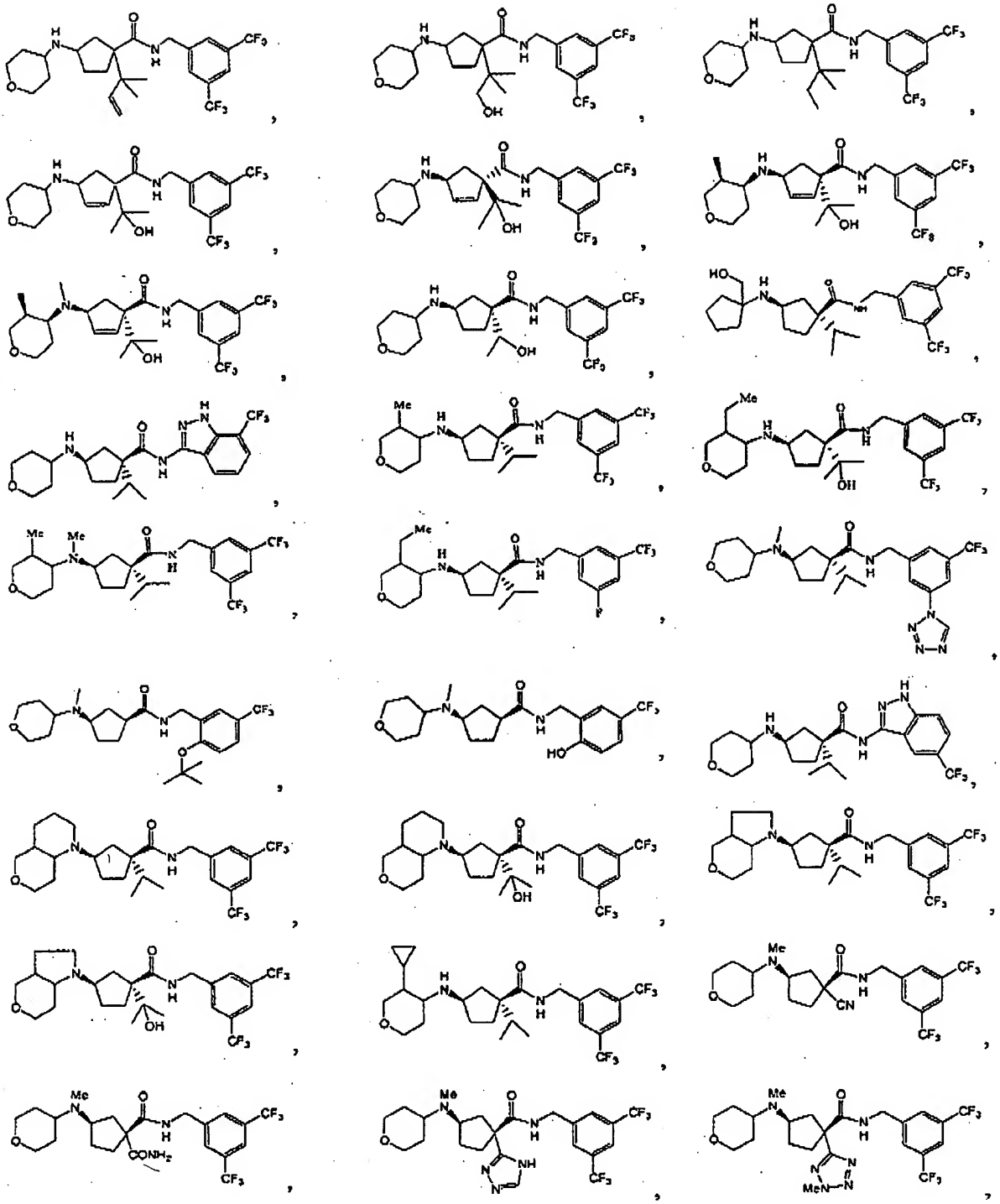
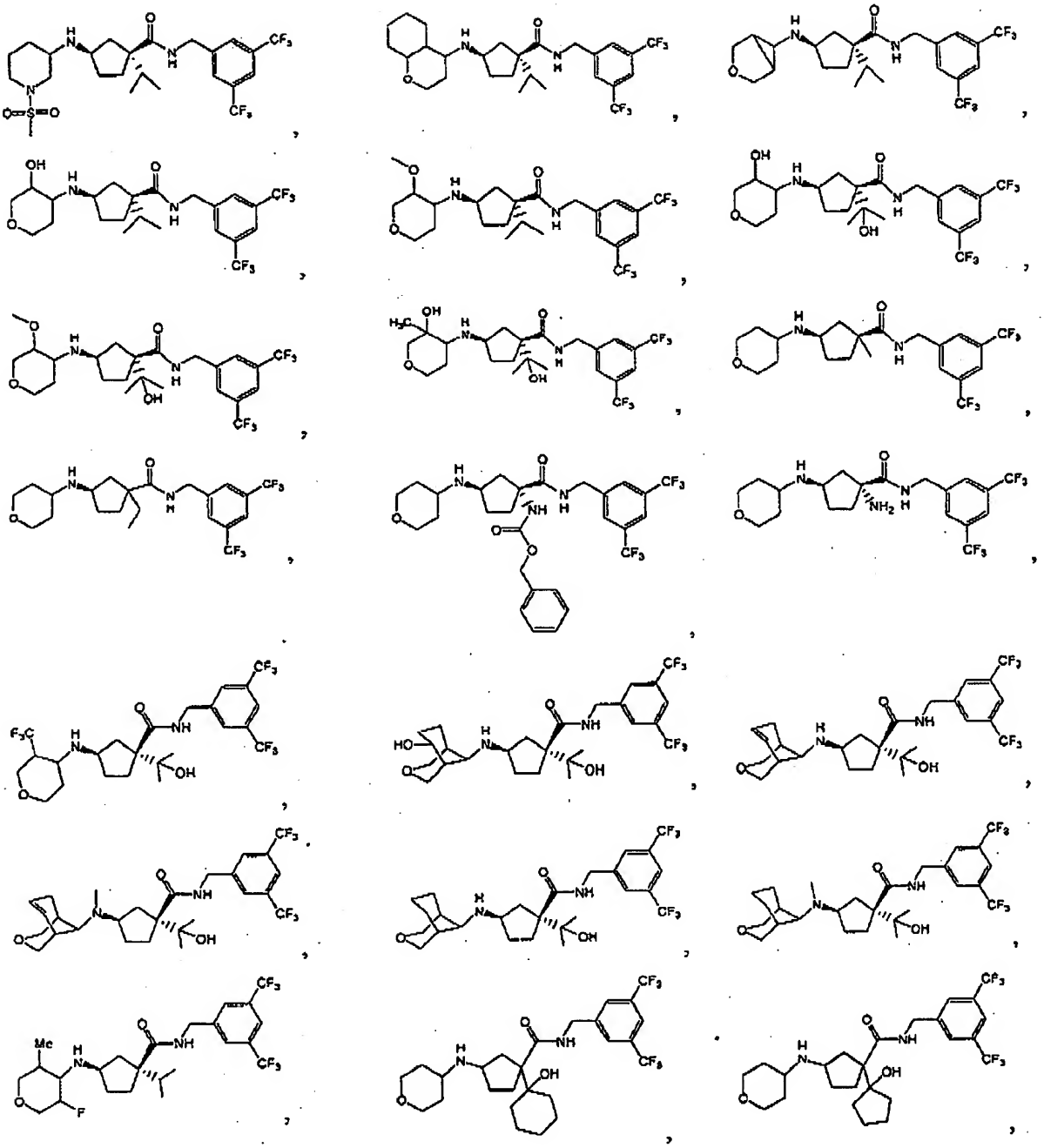
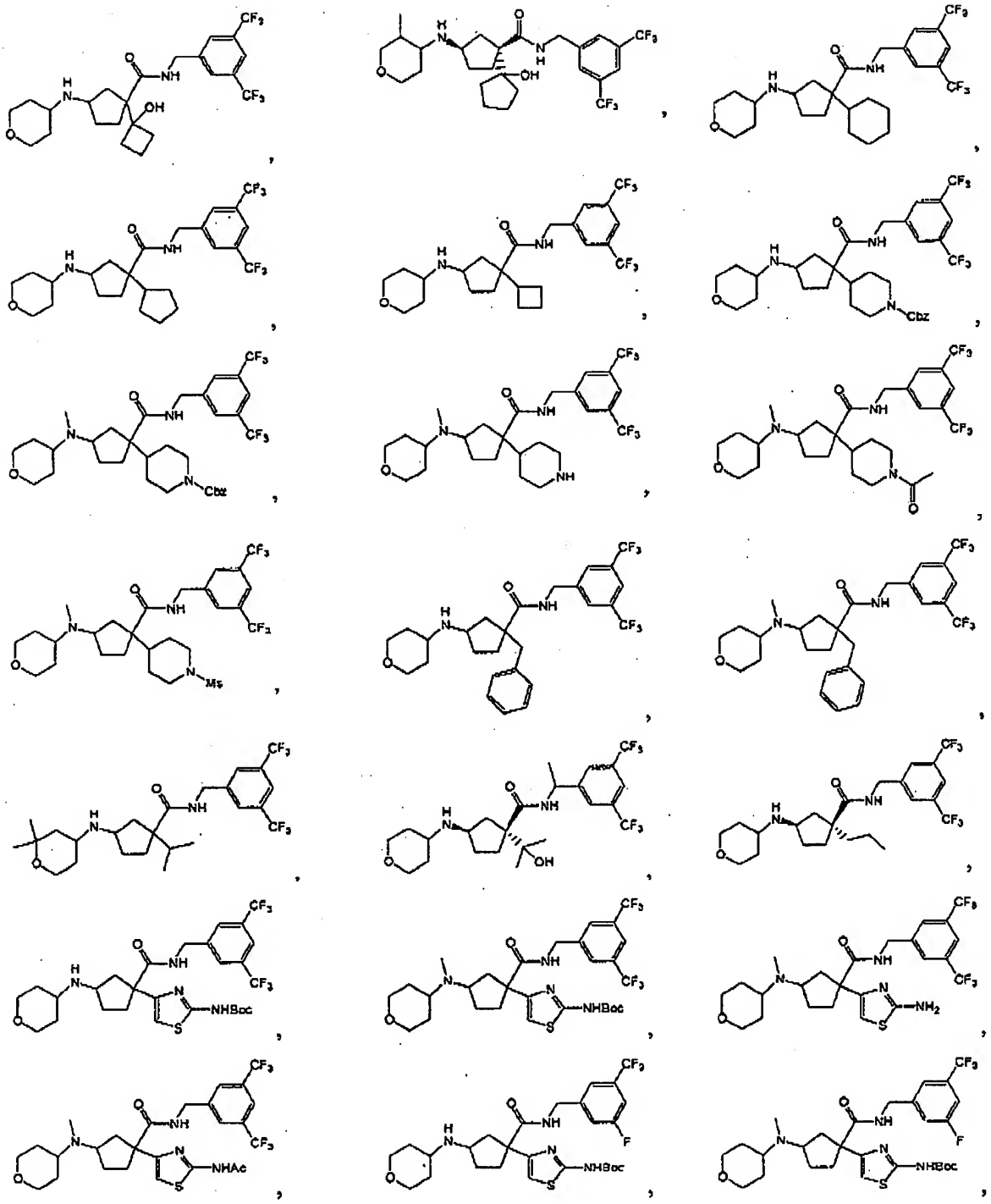

,

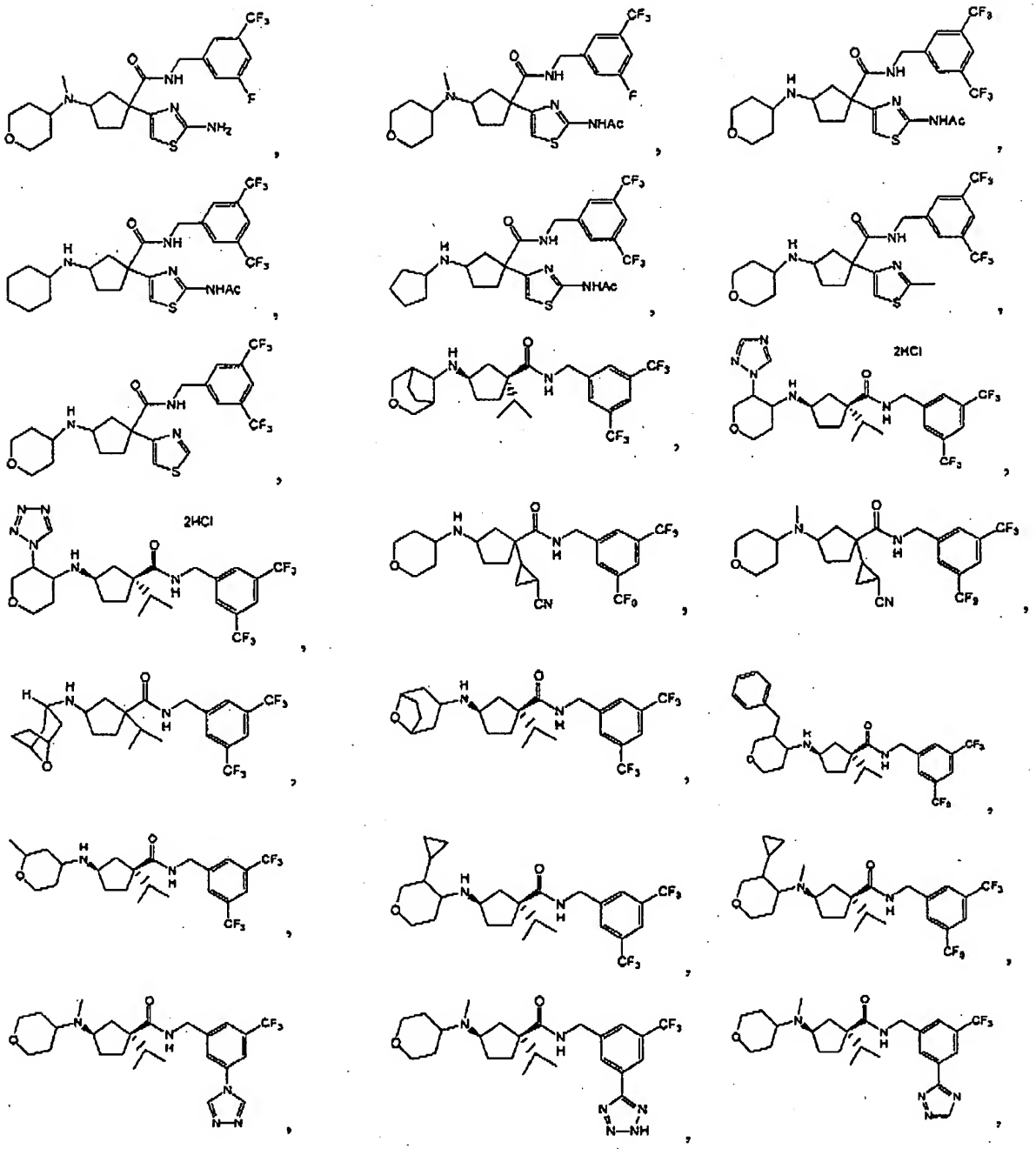


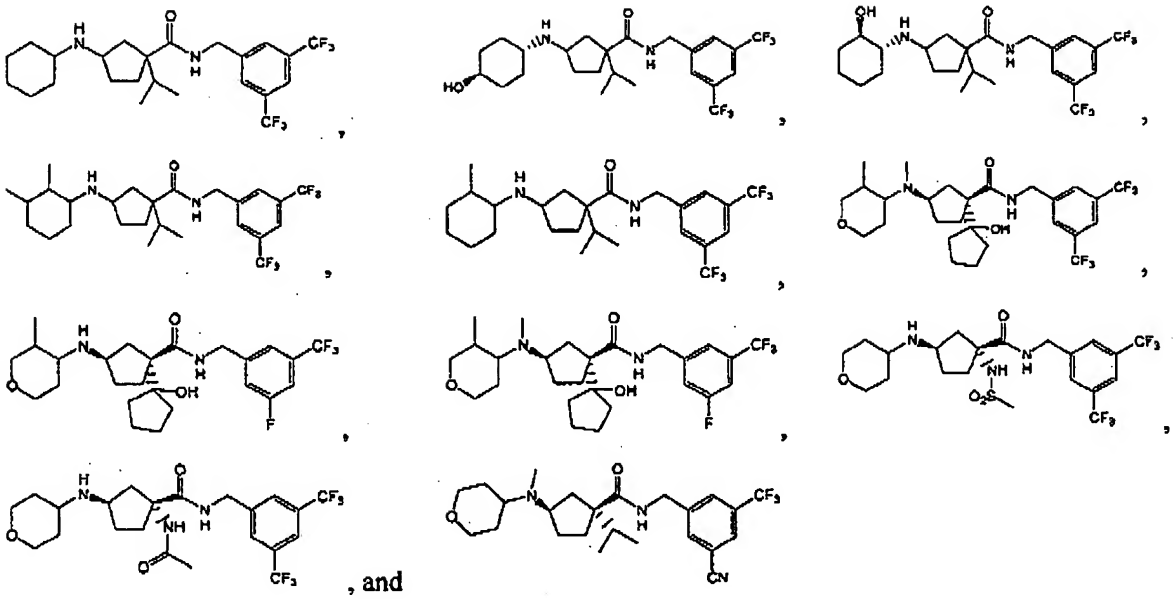






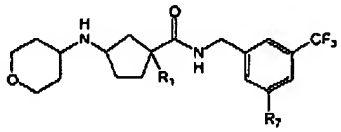




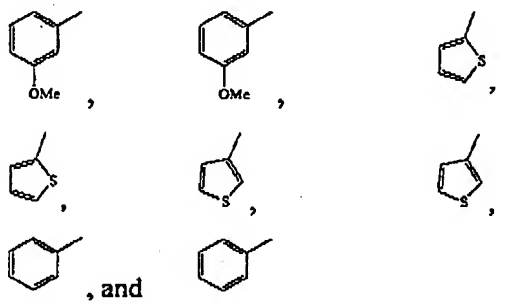

, and

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.

31. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:

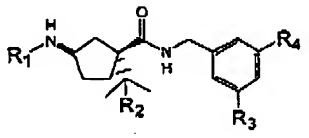


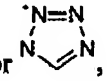
wherin R_7 is F or CF_3, and wherein R_1 is selected from:

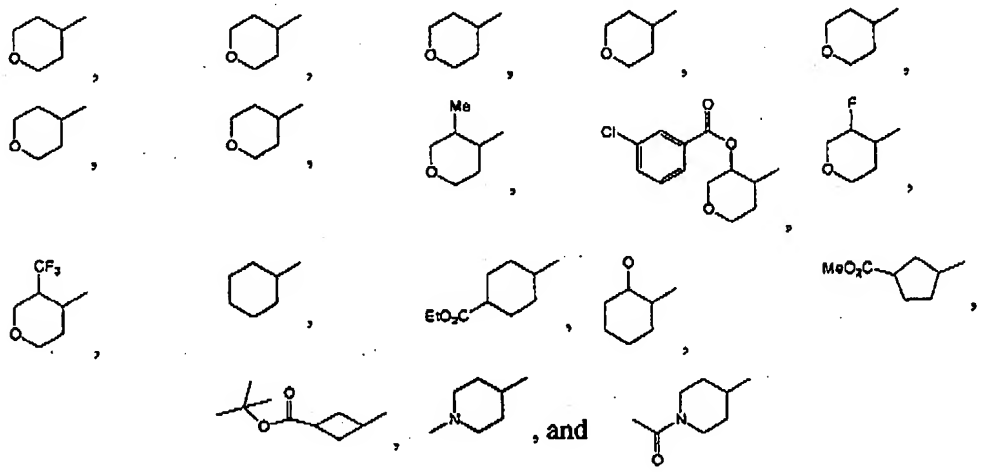

, and

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.

32. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:

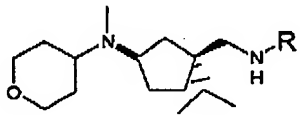


wherein R_2 is H or OH, wherein R_3 is F or CF_3, wherein R_4 is CF_3, Ph, OCF_3, Cl, or  , and wherein R_1 is selected from:

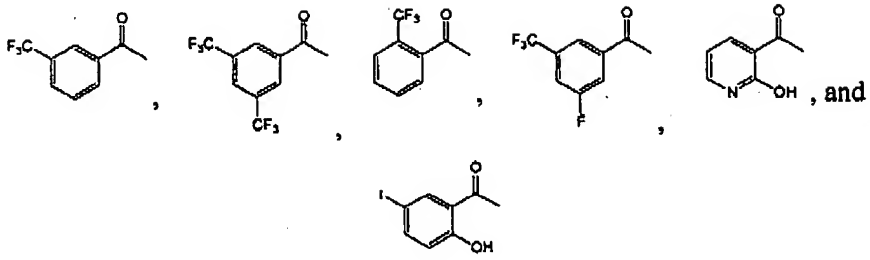


and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.

33. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:

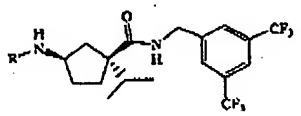


wherein R is selected from:

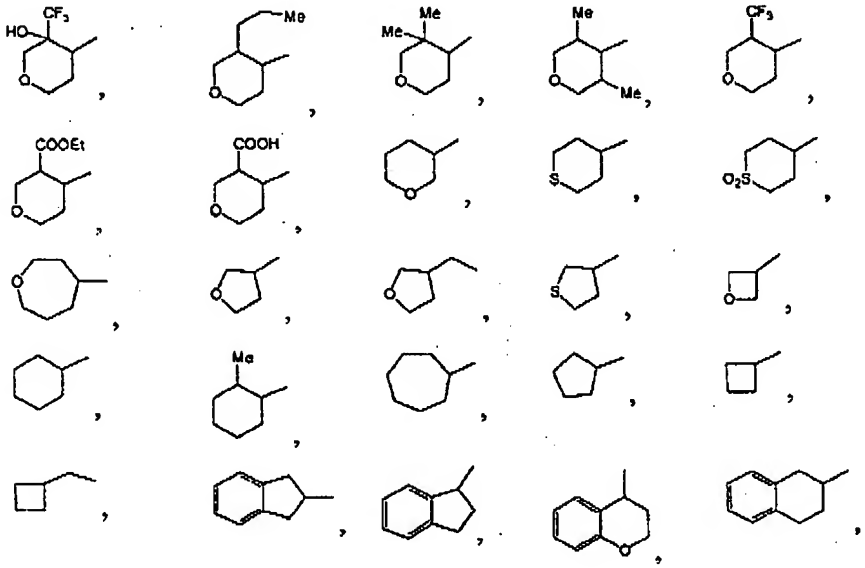


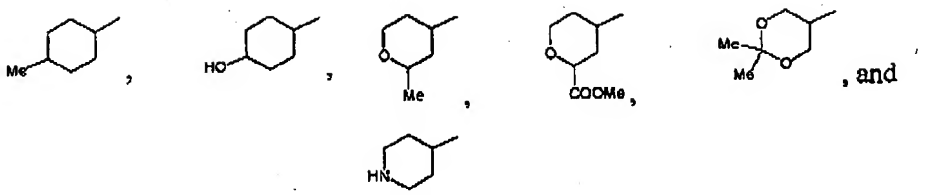
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.

34. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:



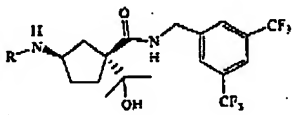
wherein R is selected from:



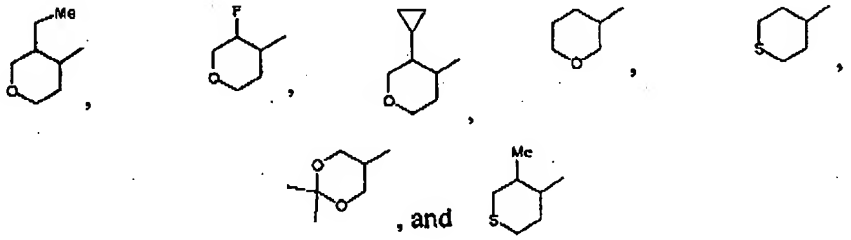


and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.

35. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:

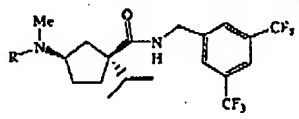


wherein R is selected from:

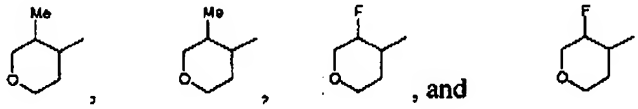


and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.

36. (previously presented) A compound of the formula:



wherein R is selected from:



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and individual diastercomers thereof.